

Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member, Officer or member of the public suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete Section1 as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration.

Section 1 – Review of the Community and Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework	
Proposer: Chris Fennell – Leisure and Community Section Head	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>areas which should be <u>included</u> in the review.</i> • <i>areas which should be <u>excluded</u> from the review.</i> • <i>Whether the focus should be on past performance, future policy or both.</i> 	<p>Watford Council has a large and active voluntary sector with organisations providing a diverse range of services often to those who are most vulnerable.</p> <p>The Commissioning Framework is the council’s mechanism that sets out the priorities for a range of leisure and community services to be delivered by commissioned voluntary and third sector organisations on behalf of the borough council.</p> <p>The Commissioning Framework must be designed to support the delivery of the council’s Vision and Corporate Plan, in particular ‘promoting an active, cohesive and well informed community’, although it is also expected that it would contribute to ‘making Watford a better place to live’ and ‘to provide the strategic lead for Watford’s sustainable economic growth’.</p> <p>Financial support for future Voluntary and Community Commissioning Frameworks will be subject to the availability of funding during that period, as set out in the council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy and annual budget setting process.</p>

<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p>The council has a long standing and positive working relationship with the local voluntary and third sector organisations and it deploys a significant proportion of its budget to support a number of them in a variety of ways.</p> <p>The council intends to continue supporting the sector recognising that they are sometimes best placed to deliver key services to local residents.</p> <p>The council is currently in Year 3 of a 3 year funding cycle (2016 - 2019), elected members are asked to consider establishing a cross-party Task and Finish Panel commencing in July 2018.</p>
<p>What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?</p> <p><i>Examples might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To identify what is being done and what the potential barriers are;</i> • <i>To review relevant performance indicators;</i> • <i>To compare our policies with those of a similar authority;</i> • <i>To assess the environmental/social impacts;</i> • <i>To Benchmark current service provision;</i> • <i>To find out community</i> 	<p>To consider the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which of the current commissioned organisations should remain part of the new framework? (Framework document attached) 2. Should any new organisations be considered for inclusion in the new framework, if so on what basis? 3. How long should the next funding cycle last - current cycle is 3 years? 4. Explore funding options for the commissioned organisations - should the overall funding for commissioned services be increased or reduced and should the individual funding for commissioned organisations be increased or reduced based upon past performance? 5. Understand the value for money (social or economic impacts and outcomes) the council receives through the framework. 6. Develop a new SLA and set of KPIs for the different organisations.

<p><i>perceptions and experience;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To identify the gap between provision and need</i> 	
<p>How do you think evidence might be obtained?</p> <p><i>Examples might include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Questionnaires/Surveys</i> • <i>Site visits</i> • <i>Interviewing witnesses</i> • <i>Research</i> • <i>Performance data</i> • <i>Public hearings</i> • <i>Comparisons with other local authorities</i> 	<p>Councillors will be asked to review the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Year Reports from the current commissioned organisations, including the KPIs • Presentations and interviews with senior representatives from the commissioned organisations, detailing their contribution to the council corporate objectives and wider social value • Site visits to the facilities/venues to observe the service being delivered • Comparison (where possible) with similar third sector Commissioning Frameworks within Hertfordshire or the sub region
<p>Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?</p>	
<p>It must affect a group or community of people</p>	<p>All sections of the local community, alongside those people who work and study in the borough will use the service and venues that form part of the commissioning framework e.g. community centres, CAB and Watford Palace Theatre</p>

<p>It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake</p>	<p>The services which are currently commissioned are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector – delivered by Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) • Mobility scooter and wheel chair services – delivered by Watford Shopmobility • Advice services – delivered by Watford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) • Arts and culture services – delivered by Watford Palace Theatre • Small Grants Fund – administered by the WBC Client Services Team • Community centre network e.g. West Watford Community Association
<p>It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months</p> <p><i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i></p>	<p>The Framework has not been a subject in the last 12 months</p> <p>The last review was conducted in 2014/15</p>
<p>It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<p>The Voluntary and Community Sector Commissioning Framework supports the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion smart growth and economic prosperity • Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities • Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community • Secure our own financial future
<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time, other constraints or risks which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability:</i> • <i>imminent policy changes either locally, regionally or nationally within the area under review.</i> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>The new commissioning framework needs to be concluded by December 2018 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow WBC officers sufficient time to develop and negotiate the new Service Level Agreements and KPI's • To allow commissioned organisations time to mobilise resources to deliver the service provision to commence in April 2019.

Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT)• Watford Shopmobility• Watford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)• Watford Palace Theatre• WBC Leisure & Community Services Team• Community centre network e.g. West Watford Community Association, One YMCA, Watford Football Trust, W3RT
--	---

<p>Are there likely to be any Equality implications which will need to be considered?</p> <p><i>Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Pregnancy or maternity • Race • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation • Marriage or civil partnership (only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination) 	<p>A full EIA will be completed (and published on the council website) as part of the Task and Finish group review of the commissioning framework and will detail the impacts (negative and positive) on the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.</p>
---	---

<p>Sign off <i>(It is expected that any Councillor proposing a topic agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee will participate in the Task Group)</i></p>	
Chris Fennell	<p>Date May 2018</p>